

# ABSTRACT

A binding member removing apparatus 300 comprises a tray  
30 for mounting thereon a bundle D of document sheets bound  
with a staple S, a removing unit 410 for removing the staple  
5 S from the bundle D of document sheets mounted on the tray  
30, and a moving unit for moving the staple S removed by the  
removing unit 410. The removing unit 410 is provided with  
an inserting member 411 to be passed between the bundle of  
document sheets and the binding member binding the bundle  
10 of document sheets and the inserting member 411 is provided  
with a plurality of elongated parts 412 formed in the shape  
of a comb having teeth extended in the direction of insertion  
thereof. The inserting member optionally comprises a first  
inserting member 811 to be passed between the obverse face  
15 of the bundle D of document sheets and the staple S and a  
second inserting member 812 to be passed between the reverse  
face of the bundle D of document sheets and the staple S as  
a binding member. The binding member removing device is  
further provided with discerning means for forming a judgment  
20 whether or not the staple S has been removed from the bundle  
D of document sheets after the operation for removal of the  
staple S by the removing unit 410.